

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 24 as with the following amended paragraph:

--Light coupled into the fiber by light launching assembly 40 propagates in the hollow core surrounded by the multilayer dielectric structure with periodic refractive index modulation, which provides photonic bandgap confinement of light within the core. Typically, photonic crystal fiber 30 is a multi-mode fiber, however, the differences in attenuation for different modes can be large enough so that all modes but one are sufficiently decayed after a certain distance so the fiber functions as a single mode fiber after that distance. See, for example, commonly owned U.S. Application Serial No. 10/057,258, entitled "Low-loss photonic crystal waveguide having large core radius," filed January 25, 2002, and now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,625,364. In this example, the mode with the lowest attenuation is the TE_{01} mode, which is the mode for which transmission losses are measured. Fiber/mode converter 70 assists in suppressing modes other than the TE_{01} mode.--